Government equated composite mills with the powerloom sector in the matter of excise duty; and

(c) if so, what measures Government have taken to give relief to the powerloom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c)Since the production of cloth by the powerloom sector has been steadily increasing while that of the composite mill sector has been declining, the question of giving any special relief to the powerloom sector does not arise.

Spinning Mills

3450. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:
SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how many proposals for cooperative spinning mills in Maharashtra are pending with the Central Government; and

(b) what is the position of financing of the eleven-cooperative spinning mills in the backward regions of Maharashtra which are being set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) There is at present no fresh proposal pending with the Government for the licensing of any new cooperative spinning mills in Maharashtra.

(b) The Industrial Development Bank of India have been advised to consider the financing of these projects favourably.

Authorised/Unauthorised Powerlooms

3451. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:
SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of authorised and unauthorised powerlooms at present in the country;

(b) how many authorised and unauthorised powerlooms are at present working in Maharashtra; and

(c) what credit facility is extended to these powerlooms and especially to those in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) According to available information, as on 30-6-1988 there were 4,69,155 authorised and 3,04,300 unauthorised powerlooms in the decentralised sector in the country Out of these, there were 209.162 authorised and 1.07.042 unauthorised powerlooms in Maharashtra. Out of these approximately, 3 5 per cent of the total number of powerlooms in Maharashtra were lying closed.

(c) the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development and the Industrial Development Bank of India provide refinance both for term loans and working capital to powerloom cooperatives through cooperatives/commercial banks/State Financial Corporations. State Governments have been requested to encourage the formation of powrlooms cooperatives for augmenting the flow of credit to powerlooms

Excise Duty Relief for Paper Industry

3452. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the paper industry in the country is in dol-

drums and is urging Government to provide excise duty relief;

(b) if so what is Government's reaction to the repeated representations of the paper industry in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to provide relief to the paper industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) in this year's Budget Government have granted certain concessions from excise duty to the paper industry. Representations have been received subsequently from the paper industry seeking further duty concessions. These have been examined but the Government do not find any justification at present for granting further concessions.

Abolition of Export Duty on Coffee

3453. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received several represntations in connection with the abolition of export duty on coffee;

(b) whether the small farmers and coffee cultivators have been mainly affected due to the levy of export duty on coffee; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto and by when a final decision is to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Government have received representations seeking abolition of export duty on coffee, inter alia, on the ground that the duty has adversely affected small farmers and coffee cultivators. The representations have been examined. Taking into account various relevant factors such as the trend in international prices, cost of production, export prospects etc., Government have reduced the export duty on coffee, from Rs. 1700/- to Rs. 1000/- per tonne with effect from the 18th August, 1988.

Funds for Agricultural Pumps in Maharashtra

3454. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NABARD's restrictions are prohibiting Land Development Banks and Cooperative Banks to release funds to the Maharashtra State Eelectricity Board to enable it to give electricity connections for agricultural pumps; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

Charging of Interest on Special Central Assistance to Maharashtra

3455. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government has requested the Central Government to pass on the entire component of external aid (Special Central Assistance) to the State and charge the same rate of interest which is charged by the external agency which is giving the aid; and